

Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin
Lodge No. 45 F.A.A.M

bulletin

Takoma Masonic Center
115 Carroll Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012

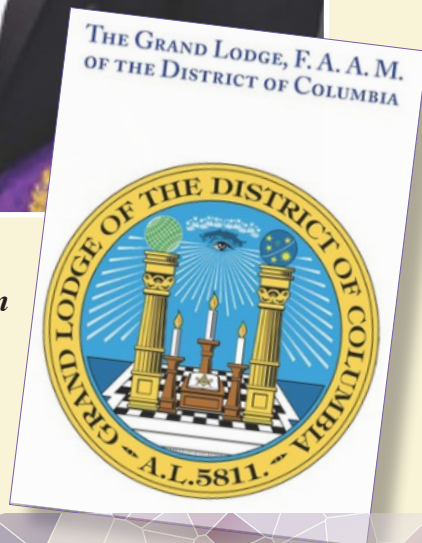
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June 2024

Meets Second Tuesday of each month except July and August (no meeting),
and December, (second Sunday)

2024 *Grand Visitation*



**Most Worshipful
Grand Master
Jacob M. Bressman**



Brethren, the Grand Visitation for Samuel Gompers–Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45 will take place on September 10th, 2024, during the September Stated Communication. All Past Masters, Officers and Brethren of our Lodge are called to attend. As is the tradition of the Grand Lodge, our Worshipful Master Aaron Kamerer will present his report to the Grand Master, and the 50, 60, and 70-year members will be honored.

Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM, the meeting will begin at 7:30 PM, and the Grand Visitation will commence at 8:00 PM. RSVP to the forthcoming eVite or the Secretary.

Please be aware that our June Stated Communication has been called off.

Compliments of
**SAMUEL GOMPERS-BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
LODGE NO. 45, F.A.A.M.**



Your father or uncle
may have been a Mason

Your grandfather probably was a Mason

To learn more about Masonry:
We meet the second Tuesday night
at Takoma Masonic Center

Aaron Kamerer, *Worshipful Master*, wm@sgbf45.org
Derek Gould, *Senior Warden*
Jeffrey R. Greenwald, *Junior Warden*

2B1  **ASK1**

Light From the East

WM Aaron A. Kamerer 2024



As Freemasonry evolves in a rapidly changing world, it faces the dual challenge of preserving its rich heritage while embracing the opportunities presented by modern technology. Our traditions, rituals, and values are deeply rooted in history, serving as a timeless beacon of moral and spiritual guidance for our members. However, in today's digital age, technology offers powerful tools that can enhance communication, education, and organizational efficiency within our Masonic lodges.

Embracing technology while adhering to past traditions is essential for us to remain relevant and accessible to our members and the wider community. Digital platforms can facilitate the dissemination of Masonic teachings, allowing members to access educational resources, lectures, and discussions from anywhere in the world. Online forums and social media channels provide avenues for Masons to connect, share insights, and collaborate on charitable initiatives, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie beyond the confines of the physical lodge room.

Moreover, technology can streamline administrative processes and improve lodge management, enabling our officers to efficiently communicate with members,

schedule meetings, and manage finances. Digital tools can also enhance the experience of Masonic rituals and ceremonies, incorporating multimedia elements while preserving the solemnity and reverence that characterize these sacred traditions.

However, as we embrace technology, it's vital to uphold the principles of discretion, decorum, and respect for tradition. While digital communication channels offer convenience and accessibility, they must be used judiciously to safeguard the integrity and sanctity of Masonic teachings and practices. We must exercise discernment in the use of social media and online platforms, ensuring that they uphold the dignity and reputation of the Craft while fostering a culture of mutual respect and brotherly love.

Ultimately, embracing technology while adhering to past traditions enables us to adapt to the changing needs and preferences of our members while preserving the timeless principles that have guided the Craft for centuries. By striking a balance between tradition and innovation, we can ensure the continued relevance and vitality of the Craft in the 21st century and beyond.



SAMUEL GOMPERS-BENJAMIN FRANKLIN LODGE NO. 45, F.A.A.M. LIVING PAST MASTERS

1974	Aaron S. Teitel	1994	Joseph N. Snyder	2015	Randy A. Schoch
1974	Donald M. Stein	1995	Burt Levy, HPSGD	2016	Leonard Rubin
1979	Michael J. Rinis	1997	Adam Forman	2017	Michael K. Greenwald, SGD
1979	Burton Penn	2001	Sheldon I. Rappeport, MA, DSM, GL-E	2018	Raymond E. Horn
1981	Jules S. Tepper, PGM	2002-2003	Jeffrey Sherman	2019	Robert Greenwald
1981	Joel Shulman	2009	Jonathan M. Binstock	2020	Jerry P. Keilsohn
1983	Julien P. Hofberg	2010	David B. Torchinsky	2021	Burt S. Levy, HPSGD
1984	Edwin S. Nachlas	2011	Joshua L. Rubin	2022	Jerry P. Keilsohn
1989	Sheldon I. Rappeport, MA, DSM, GL-E	2012-2013	Erik F. Milman	2023	Allen R. Levy
1990	Robert H. Starr, PGM	2014	Adam Forman		



DUE NOTICE OF GRAND VISITATION

Most Worshipful Brother Jacob M. Bressman, Grand Master of Masons of the District of Columbia will be pleased to make his annual Grand Visitation to Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45 on the date and time designated below. He will be accompanied by Officers of the Grand Lodge, and will receive the reports of the Worshipful Master, honor the 50, 60, and, 70-year members and the Lodge's Fidelity Medal holders, introduce the Past Grand Masters present, and conduct any other business as he may deem appropriate for the occasion.

September 10 @ 8:00 p.m.

Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45

Takoma Masonic Center

115 Carroll Street, NW

All Past Grand Masters, heads of appendant bodies and the Worshipful Masters of 2024 are welcomed to accompany the Grand Master upon any or all of his Grand Visitations.

Dated this 22nd day of May 2024 A.D., 6024 A.L.

Adam J. Goldman
Grand Secretary



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Brethren, as you know we partner with JSSA several times a year to help with Holiday Food Baskets. You may donate directly to JSSA and specify holiday baskets to support their food assistance.

<https://www.jssa.org/get-involved/donate/>



Visit to Israel

by Lee R. Silverman

Being the newest Master Mason for SG-BF Lodge # 45, I wanted to tell you all about my experience in Israel this past month. Prior to my travels to Israel, I contacted Secretary Horn to request that he would contact the Grand Lodge Secretary and request that he would reach out to the Grand Lodge Secretary of Israel for me. It was only a matter of days before I received an email from Grand Secretary Adam Goldman (GL D.C.) and then shortly thereafter from Grand Secretary Jose Cohen (GL Israel). Both correspondences confirmed, what I learned about the Fraternity, and what being a Mason is all about. The warmth from both Grand Secretaries was apparent and meant a great deal to me.

I have had the experience of a fraternity from my 45+ years in the Fire Rescue world. I have traveled to many states in the US and many countries in the Caribbean, Europe and Asia and have always stopped into Fire Stations and received a warm welcome despite language barriers. The reception was always friendly, and many times involved exchanging t-shirts or department patches. My trip to Israel during this very tumultuous period of time for Israel and its people had me concerned as to what to expect during my month with my family. I reached out to Grand Secretary Cohen and located the local lodge in my family's town of Be'er Sheva. Grand Secretary Cohen forwarded my information to the Master of the Lodge and gave me his phone number. The Desert Splendor Lodge #57 have their monthly communications on the first Monday of the month. This worked out great for me as I would be in town for their communication.

WM Gregory Shapira reached out to me, and we spoke about my trip and my hopes to visit their lodge. He was very happy to give me all the information and asked if I would meet them the week before at a local

restaurant for dinner. When I arrived, I immediately understood the Freemason Fraternity. When WM Shapira saw me, he walked up and welcomed me and gave me a big hug. He had notified his lodge of my visit and ten of them arrived for dinner to meet me. These men were from all over the world. The WM and the Senior Warden were from Ukraine, one Past Master who was also a Past Grand Master of Israel was from Spain. Other members who attended were from Argentina, Panama, Austria, South Africa, and Italy. They all spoke English and Hebrew and ranged from a new applicant; one just completed his 1st degree and two were studying for their 3rd degree and the others were Master Masons. We spoke about Masonry in the District of Columbia and in Israel. I told them about the very minimal experience that I have, and we spoke about some of the differences between their lodge and our lodge. We spent several hours together and as we parted every man came up to me and gave me a hug and well wishes. I was surprised and very excited by this new family I have found. As I went back to my apartment and spoke to my brother and sister in-law, I relayed the experience I just had. The people I met and the acceptance that I received.

Five days later I put on my suit, and drove over to the Lodge. The Lodge shared a bomb shelter in the southernmost area of Be'er Sheva. It was a fairly new community, a residential area made up of single-family homes. W.M. Shapira met me at the door, shook my hand and gave me a hug. He walked me into the Lodge (bomb shelter) and began introducing me to some brothers that I had not yet met. The others that were at dinner welcomed and showed me around. They had snacks and drinks set up as we talked about masonry. Two brothers came up and shook my hand and introduced themselves to me. One was the past

Grand Master of Israel and one of the current Deputy Grand Masters. They were informed by the GL Secretary and the WM that I was attending that night. I spoke with the GL representatives who wanted to know my experiences in the US and our Lodge. They both retired from the Israel Police and Security Services. They showed me where to sign in and gave me an apron. The lodge came to order and the conversation changed to Hebrew. When the WM introduced me, he spoke in English and I returned the welcome to the WM, the GL Representatives, and the lodge in general. For the most part I understood the ritual, and when it came to the lodge specific items they spoke in English. The lodge runs differently in some ways, but I was able to keep up with the ritual.



After the lodge closed, dinner was served in the outer room. As we all stood, the WM made introductions, and each had a moment to speak about themselves. Past GL Masters, GL Deputy Grand Masters, Lodge Past Masters, then visitors. I was introduced and I spoke for a couple of minutes about our lodge in D.C. After that the Chaplain gave the prayer for dinner and we ate. The GL Representatives asked me to sit with them. We spoke throughout the night about Public Safety and our work we had done. They wanted to know about my 9-11 experiences, and I told them about my 10 days at the Pentagon. They were very excited to hear about Masonry in D.C. and the States in general. When the dinner was over, and we had the after meal prayer we all

went outside and ended the evening talking about the future of Israel and Masonry. The night ended the same as it had started with all walking up to me, shaking my hand, calling me brother and giving me a hug. The brother from Panama gave me a ride back to my apartment.



Left to Right:, RWB Shaughan Avni, Grand Lodge District Superintendent, me, WM Gregory Shapira. May 6, 2024 Desert Splendo Lodge #57 Be'er Sheva, Israel.

I have remained in contact with W.M. Shapira, and told him I will be returning to Israel after the beginning of the year and told him I hope to return to the lodge. I did not make it to the Grand Lode of Isreal due to the war. I spent a few days in Tel Aviv during Shabbat so none of the Tel Aviv lodges were open. I can't wait to return and spend more time visiting more of the lodges and meeting more brothers throughout Israel. I met a wonderful group of men; it was a tremendous experience. When I first had asked about Freemasonry from my Samuel Gompers–Benjamin Franklin sponsor I was told it was an ancient fraternity, a brotherhood one that I knew my father was proud to be a part of. A service organization that was all over the world. I didn't appreciate the magnitude of what I was told. I have felt the brotherhood in our lodge from day one but was floored with the reception and acceptance that I received in Israel.

I would encourage any brother that travels to consider checking out the local lodge. It was a great experience, one that I hope to return to brother masons visiting our area in the future.

Out and About!

WB Jonathan Binstock and his lady, Margo Bulman are Worthy Matron and Patron in Naomi Chapter Order of the Eastern Star. This is Margo's first time in the East and now WB Jonathan must obey. Jonathan and Margo have also been involved in the local blues music scene having a great time making music.



Margo Bulman are Worthy Matron and Patron in Naomi Chapter Order of the Eastern Star.

WB Binstock performing for the DC Blues Society. He discovered that their treasurer, Adam Oppenheim, is the grandson of the late Brother Morton Oppenheim and great nephew of William and Edmund Oppenheim. He also indicated that his cousin, Craig Oppenheim, is a brother of our Lodge. Julius was his great uncle, the youngest brother of Morton, William, and Edmund.



Entered Apprentice Degree

At our recent May Stated Communication the Lodge conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree for our Lodges newest Mason, Phillip Taylor as well as two Courtesy Degrees for Hiram Takoma Lodge #10. Congratulations to these new Brethren on taking their first step in Masonry!

Cast:

WM: Sheldon Rappeport, PM

SW: Jeffrey Greenwald

JW: Jerry Keilsohn, PM

SD: Ryan Simon

JD: Aaron Kamerer

MC: Allen Levy, PM

Sec: Derek Gould

SS: Burt Levy, PM

JS: Jorge Morris

Tiler: Hal Henig



WM Aaron Kamerer of SG-BF #45, and Christopher Burkett WM of Hiram Takoma #10

1st Degree Lecture: Sheldon Rappeport, PM

1st Degree Charge: Sheldon Rappeport, PM

At the conclusion of the Degree, the new Brothers were greeted by both WM Aaron Kamerer of SG-BF #45, and Christopher Burkett WM of Hiram Takoma #10.



WM Aaron Kamerer of SG-BF #45, and Christopher Burkett WM of Hiram Takoma #10, Philip Taylor, SG-BF #45, William Connor, HTX #10, Amear Eakins, HTX #10, Bill Connor, SS (HTX #10), Jorge Morris, JS (HTX #10)

2024 D.C. Scottish Rite Foundation GOLF OUTING

For almost 20 years, many of us have supported the DC Scottish Rite Foundation's RiteCare Childhood Communication Disorders Clinic in Washington DC that provides FREE counseling and treatment for many disadvantaged children in the Metro-Washington DC area. It's that time again and they need your help. This clinic sees over 800 kids/year (approximately 5,000 appointments/year) and the DC Scottish Rite Foundation covers all costs not covered by insurance or federal healthcare/assistance.

This year our Lodge supported this June 10th activity by sponsoring one of the holes.



RWB Michael Greenwald, PM displaying his fine form next to the sponsorship sign.


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2024 OFFICERS

Worshipful Master..... Aaron Kamerer, 321-431-1064
 Senior Warden..... Derek Gould, 240-938-6285
 Junior Warden Jeffrey R. Greenwald, 301-869-1915
 Secretary Raymond Horn, PM, secretary@sgbf45.org 443-253-0605
 6109 Lone Oak Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817
 Treasurer Robert H. Starr, PGM, 301-460-3088
 Chaplain Burt S. Levy, PM, JGD Hon., 202 409-4449
 Master-of-Ceremonies..... Allen R. Levy, PM, 703-470-4945
 Senior Deacon..... Ryan A. Simon, 240-475-3935
 Junior Deacon Jerry P. Keilsohn, PM, 301-570-0446
 Senior Steward Pending appointment
 Junior Steward..... Pending appointment
 Trustees..... GL-E Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM, DSM, MA, (2024),
 Jeffrey Greenwald, (2025),
 Julien P. Holberg, PM (2026)
 Fidelity Medal Recipient To be selected
 Historian Joshua L. Rubin, PM, 240-277-5355
 Tiler..... Hal Henig, 301-681-3873
 Immediate PM Allen R. Levy, PM, 703-470-4945

2024 REPRESENTATIVES

Masonic Foundation JGS Michael Greenwald, PM, 301-272-0168
 Masonic & Eastern Star Home Raymond Horn, PM, 443-253-0605
 St. John's Mite Association..... Burt S. Levy, PM

2024 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Auditing.....Kevin Stemp
 Ambassador to Amicable-St. John's Lodge #25..... Jonathan Binstock, PM
 301-442-4812
 Baskets.....Jeffrey Greenwald, 301-869-1915
 David B. Torchinsky, PM, 301-933-1955
 Bulletin Committee Raymond Horn, PM, 443-253-0605
 Business Manager..... Open
 By-Laws..... Robert H. Starr, PGM, 301-460-3088
 Catechism Instructors..... Burt S. Levy, PM, 202 409-4449
 Centennial Planning Aaron Kamerer, 202-510-5181
 Education and Degree Committee .. GL-E Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM, DSM,
 MA
 301-598-8379
 Engleberg-Korman Charitable Foundation:.....Michael Greenwald, PM
 Michael J. Rinis, PM, 301-384-8244,
 Jeffrey R. Greenwald
 Funeral, Visitations, Widow Care Burt S. Levy, PM, 202 409-4449
 Investment Committee..... Trustees, Treas. Robert H. Starr, PGM
 Refreshment..... J.S., S.S.
 Relief W.M., S.W., J.W.
 Sunshine and Monthly Meet-Up Chairman..... Hal Henig, 301-681-3873

2024 PROXIES

For the Worshipful Master Ryan Simon
 For the Senior Warden Lee Silverman
 For the Junior Warden Alan Karpas

Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45 F.A.A.M.
 Secretary
 6109 Lone Oak Drive
 Bethesda, MD 20817



Calendar for Masonic Year 2023 – Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45

For the most up-to-date information, please check the Trestleboard or www.sgbf45.org. If anyone is interested in any of these events and wishes to obtain more information, please contact WM Allen Levy about all events (see page 2)

Date		Event	Open to
June	23	Meet-up, Hershey's Restaurant 6:30 PM	Family and Friends

Date		Event	Open to
September	10	Stated Communication, Grand Visitation and Awards Night 7:30 PM	Masons only
	23	Meet-up 6:30 PM	Family and Friends

Date		Event	Open to
October	8	October Stated Communication, 7:30 PM	Masons only
	28	Meet-up 6:30 PM	Family and Friends

Date		Event	Open to
November	12	November Stated Communication, 7:30 PM	Masons only
	25	Meet-up 6:30 PM	Family and Friends

Date		Event	Open to
December	8	December Stated Communication, 7:30 PM	Masons only